

by RAY BROOKS

RUMBLINGS FROM MARS
Whenever good material becomes a little scarce to a small town columnist he can always write about something or someone of national interest thousands of miles away. This expedient does several things: (1) It fills space; (2) it permits the writer to blow off steam (which steam should, for the good of the community, be blown off locally) without lowering the boom on a local big wig; (3) it never reaches the person or thing about which it is penned; (4) the scribbler avoids squabbles & headaches.

Assuming we are in such a bind (which we are) one of the very safest subjects to wax hot & bothered about is war. Now war is a mighty fine sort of a pastime about which we can blow our top and beat our chest without once raising the blood pressure of the most sensitive soul. About war we are the greatest hypocrites in the world. We decry it both publicly & privately; yet at the first sign of a possible scrap we would as gladly bash a skull or slit a throat as we would accept a double Scotch & soda on a hot night at Hollywood Riviera. A lot of us don't think yet that war really is hell. And our saps and our propaganda, either deliberate or otherwise. We believe any trash we hear or read about another we are supposed to dislike, even if we don't know why we dislike them.

The American rabble are leading themselves to war as sure as you're a foot high. To prove the trend toward their acceptance of the glorious (7) principle of "making the world safe for democracy" let Shop Talk quote from January Fortune magazine news Quarterly survey have been uncanically accurate.

To the question, "If there had been a general war in Europe (referring to the crisis of last September) do you believe that the U. S. would eventually have been drawn in?" 76% answered yes. 18 months ago to the same question only 22% replied in the affirmative. Obviously we have become fatalistic and accept war as inevitable.

Vastly significant are the following opinions. Ask "Should the democratic powers, including the U. S., now stand firm together at any cost to prevent Hitler or Mussolini from taking any more territory at the expense of other nations?" 56.3% replied Yes, 31% No, 12.7% Don't Know. Thus a majority, probably for the first time in American history, favor collective security. Quite a reversal of attitude for a people who for years have shied away from the principle of concerted action, have scorned the idea of joining any military sanctions against the aggressors or the League of Nations, and have even favored forcing national rights in China rather than enforce them.

I didn't raise my boy to be a soldier!

SQUAWKS FROM A SOUND TRACK
To insure the return of the auto license bureau next year local car owners should "patronize" the local branch, talk it up among their friends. Seem that the bureau must do a certain volume of business or pull out this office, the which we don't want to happen, as the present setup is a real convenience.

Richard "21 Jewel" Brunswick, watchmaker extraordinary at Hollywood, put down his eye glass last Monday, donned his coat & hat and spent the day at the L. A. Philharmonic witnessing a dress rehearsal of golden-voiced open. Very impressed was German-born Richard who himself was considered quite a musician in his home town of Kell where he entertained thousands with his skill at tapping beer steins with a table knife. At the opprey Richard was the center of his landlord Charlie Clark of San Pedro whose wife (Mrs. Clark to you!) was once an opera singer of considerable merit. Mrs. Clark trained the lead's understudy.

"Torrance's Own" race horse Flashman (stable off Carson St. on Figueroa) now doing the Lambeth Walk out at Santa Anita, was entered in that first race Tuesday, forgot that several royal looks had coin on his schnoz, looked just like Coy Farquhar's black mule as he stumbled into the stretch, limped in a lousy sixth.

IN DEFENSE Of the Eucalypti

An Editorial by GROVER C. WHYTE

Once again the stately rows of eucalyptus trees which form such an appropriate background for the sylvan beauty of El Prado park have been spared from the axe,—thanks to the nature-loving and civic-minded City Council, which Tuesday evening promptly tabled a petition for removal of the trees.

Why anyone should want to needlessly cut down a single tree,—much less two long rows of them,—is beyond our comprehension. Certainly anyone who recalls the sand-blown treeless semi-desert tract, that was Torrance 30 years ago before these trees were planted, would not have them ruthlessly slaughtered and their beauty and benefits forever lost.

However, in fairness to many El Prado property owners who signed the petition, it should be remembered that they are comparatively new-comers to this city and perhaps are unaware of the importance of the tall sheltering giants which grace the city's principal beauty spot. Others, who signed the petition hastily, we are informed, have since changed their views after careful consideration.

In denying the requests of a few El Prado residents, the City Council acted quite properly, as most certainly the vast majority of Torrance citizens are opposed to any maiming of our central parkway. El Prado park belongs to ALL the city,—not just the residents on that street. The tall eucalypti which border either side of the park are as definitely a part of the picture as the green lawn between the roadways. To take away the lacy foliage of the background trees would be like taking out the back-drop of a woodland stage setting.

But trees have more than an aesthetic value. They have a very definite commercial worth and add much to the selling price of lots which they adorn. Building lots in Bel-Air or other high class residential districts in Beverly Hills or Pasadena bring much higher prices if they have a full grown tree or two on them. Even a scrub-oak which continually sheds its sticky thorny leaves demands a handsome price.

The petitioners object to the falling bark and leaves from the eucalyptus. Any tree sheds some foliage. The lovely peppers over on Post avenue are eternally dropping leaves that track into the house and necessitate daily sidewalk sweeping and frequent lawn raking. But who would think of cutting down the peppers, or the flowering acacias, or other beautiful trees that are the pride of many Torrance streets?

Too much shade is complained of. Imagine that in sunny Southern California, which has fought such a battle to reclaim this country from the desert,—and even now is bringing in the distant Colorado river at tremendous cost to insure plant and tree culture. Perhaps if the sun were allowed to burn its full glow into the living rooms of these El Prado residents and fade their fine carpets and draperies, they would think differently of the protecting arms of their friendly trees.

But the eucalyptus uproot the sidewalks, El Prado-ans claim. My, My, what a pity! Why are some people always looking down at the sidewalk instead of lifting their heads to see the moon filtering through the glittering foliage? One nature lover who was approached

(Continued on Page 4-B)

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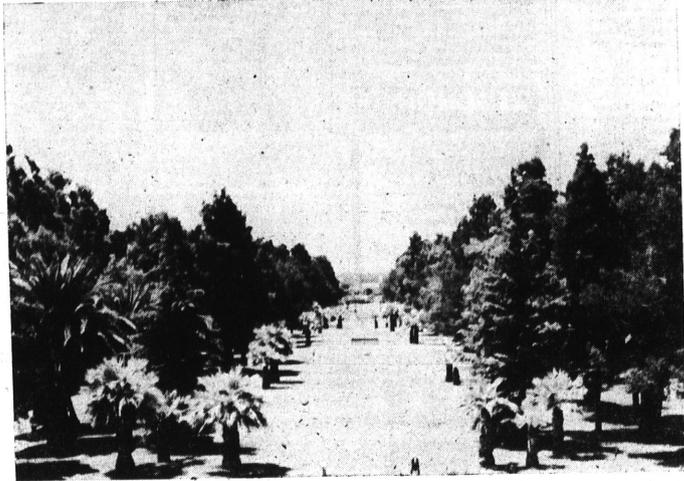
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PETITION ATTACKS OLD EL PRADO TREES



El Prado Park . . . whose 29-year-old bordering eucalyptus trees . . . were threatened this week

Council Rejects Effort to Slaughter Sylvan Beauty of "Garden Street"

One of this city's outstanding landmarks, the eucalyptus trees bordering El Prado became the object of an attack this week when a petition signed by 15 property owners on El Prado—the "garden street of the city"—was filed with the city council. The petition requested removal of all of the stately trees, planted in 1910-11, between Craven and Manuel avenues and the substitution in their places of carob trees.

As word of the proposed destruction of the oldest inhabitants of the city spread about the community, a rising tide of opposition began to counteract what many termed "a needless butchering."

Tuesday night's council meeting but offered no comment about the tree removal demand.

Other signers of the petition were Mrs. Rose M. Worrell, B. C. Buxton, J. B. Scotton, C. T. Rippey, George H. Moore, Drs. John W. Beeman, C. E. Easley and W. L. Laughon, F. C. Winkler, Frank Paour, Jr., J. C. Smith, D. H. Polhemus, Sam Levy, W. A. Michau, and the board of the First Methodist church headed by Guy L. Mowry, president.

Five alleged objections to El Prado Park's stately border were listed by those who would cut

down and burn the trees. Claiming that the eucalypti were "too large" the petitioners stated that "they are absolutely impractical for 50-foot city lots. Several are above 70 feet high and extend over the property lines between 20 and 30 feet."

Other reasons given were: "The excessive amount of shade decreases the value of the property. Houses on the north side of the street are cold and uncomfortable until noon because the trees cut off the sun."

"It is difficult to grow lawns (Continued on Page 4-B)

LOMITANS IN POSTOFFICE CONTROVERSY

Not since the agitation to annex Lomita to Torrance has the community adjoining this city been so stirred as it was this week over the circulation of petitions to recommend Earl F. Fisher, Roosevelt highway grocer, for the Lomita postmastership "about April 1."

Altho Fisher's sponsors have denied that they were attacking Postmaster Birda Paddock in obtaining signatures for the grocer, Miss Paddock said that some of the statements about her conduct of the office were decidedly antagonistic.

As result of the controversy, Lomita is once more in the midst of its "favorite controversy"—the pros and cons of a postal job. Miss Paddock said yesterday that statements indicating she plans to retire soon were "without any foundation whatever." She also emphatically refuted reports that she had another source of income other than her postoffice salary.

"The Lomita postal receipts have increased 64 percent since I became postmaster in July, 1934," Miss Paddock pointed out. "Furthermore, the office is now giving better service than ever and on Jan. 16 we will start a new addition to our rural route above 70 feet high and extend over the property lines between 20 and 30 feet."

Lomitans are taking their usual interest in the circulation of the petitions. Just what the outcome will be is unknown.

1940 CENSUS BIG JOB

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